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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirtieth session
Geneva, 6 - 8 October (Part one)
and December 1997 (Part two)
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Provisional agenda and organization of work

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

4. Evaluation of technical cooperation programmes:

   (a) In-depth study on TRAINFORTRADE
   (b) In-depth study on DMFAS

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Working Party

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

Under rule 64, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, and in accordance with the cycle of rotation for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, the Chairman of the Working Party at its thirtieth session shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Asia) and the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur a representative of one of the States members in list D.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda is reproduced above. The session of the Working Party will be held in two parts (Part one - 6 to 8 October and Part two - December 1997). Part one will deal with item 3 of the provisional agenda, and item 4 of the provisional agenda will be taken up during Part two.

Item 3 Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

The report on technical cooperation activities, which is being submitted to both the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fourth session and to the Working Party at its current session, has three parts:

An overview of technical cooperation activities (TD/B/44/11). This document provides information on recent developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, including on the mobilisation of extrabudgetary resources and on cooperation between UNCTAD and other organisations. It also includes information on proposals for cost recovery and financial sustainability in certain technical cooperation programmes.

Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 1996 (TD/B/44/11/Add.1). The information, which is organised on a programme-by-programme basis, describes the activities undertaken by UNCTAD and their impact and results.

Annex 2 - Statistical tables (TD/B/44/11/Add.2) provides information on trends in expenditures, on financial contributions and on technical cooperation projects.

Following consideration of the overview, the Working Party is invited to focus on annex I, namely the programme review of activities and their financing. In light of this, the Working Party may wish to recommend to the Board at its forty-fourth session a draft decision providing guidance on UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities.

Item 4 Evaluation of technical cooperation programmes:

(a) In-depth study on TRAINFORTRADE
(b) In-depth study on DMFAS

At its twenty-fourth session, the Working Party decided that in future annual reviews of technical cooperation, the UNCTAD secretariat should submit to it an in-depth study on a technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD "which will allow the Working Party to better evaluate the programme, recommend follow-up action and enhance UNCTAD's comparative advantage".

At its twenty-sixth session, the Working Party selected the TRAINFORTRADE programme for such a study. At its twenty-ninth session, the Working Party included this item in this session's provisional agenda and an external evaluator has been engaged in this connection. In addition, the Working Party will have before it an in-depth study of the DMFAS programme, as proposed by the secretariat and financed by the Government of Switzerland. These two studies will be discussed by the Working Party at its resumed session in December.

Item 5 Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Working Party

The secretariat will submit to the Working Party for its consideration a draft provisional agenda for its thirty-first session.

Item 6 Other business

Item 7 Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Working Party on its thirtieth session will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.